
LESSON 11

CASE STUDY: ALLIED STRATEGY IN WORLD WAR II

Introduction

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| Purpose | <p>This lesson</p> <p>Provides an understanding of the Allied military and political strategy employed during World War II by focusing on the key ideological and economic issues that motivated Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union to join forces against the Axis powers.</p> <p>Compares and contrast the various strategies of WW II and explains the relationship between politics and the personalities of the key players.</p> |
| Why Study Allied Strategy | <p>By examining the issues that confronted the Allies and the strategies adopted to prosecute the war, you can gain much insight into the dynamics of coalition warfare. Additionally, the study of the relationships between the World War II Allies and their strategies provides a foundation for studying the Cold War and the resultant strategies of the various participants.</p> |
| Relationship to Other Instruction | <p>This lesson not only lays the foundation for analyzing the fundamental components of a winning strategy, but focuses on elements of decision making inherent in the study of grand strategy. Principles learned in the grand strategy block will apply in this historical case study. This lesson also complements those on campaign analysis contained in the <i>Operational Level of War</i> (8803) course and sets the stage for implementing decisions during the <i>Warfighting From the Sea</i> (8804 through 8808) portion of the curriculum.</p> |
| Study Time | <p>This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 5 hours of study.</p> |

Educational Objectives

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| Allied Strategies | Understand allied political and military strategies during World War II. [JPME Area 3d] |
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| Allied Decision Making | Evaluate constraints on the allied strategic decision making process. [JPME Area 3e] |
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| Personality Comparison | Compare and contrast Franklin D. Roosevelt's personality with those of other key figures such as Churchill and Stalin. [JPME 3d] |
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| JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data) | 3/d/2.0 3/e/1.0 |
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Overview of Allied Strategy

British Strategy British strategy in World War II revolved around the following themes:

wPrewar assumptions and objectives, especially the preservation of the British Empire

wWinston Churchill's policies and strategies and his relationships with British and American commanders

wFDR's commitment to total war

wThe influence of World War I on British strategic thought in World War II

wAnglo-American strategy debates

wThe British contribution to Allied victory in World War II

wBritish public opinion and policy and strategy

wThe effect of resource constraints on the British

wBritish war aims in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Far East

wThe nature of the postwar British Empire and its impact on British strategy and strategists.

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Overview of Allied Strategy, Continued

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| U.S. Strategy | <p>U.S. strategy in World War II revolved around the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">wPrewar assessments, strategy, domestic and international contextwThe transition to warwDevelopment of a wartime strategywThe "Germany First" decision to win in the European theater before defeating Japan including its supporters and the resistance from Pacific strategists (MacArthur/King) from 1942 through 1944wCoalition warfare including the Anglo-American-Soviet second front debatewThe North African-Mediterranean strategywFDR's policies (including unconditional surrender) and his relationships with his principal commanderswAmerican public opinion regarding Germany, Japan, Britain, and the U.S.S.R.wAmerican war production decisionswGlobal logisticswThe U.S. contribution to victory compared to that of Britain and the U.S.S.R.wThe decision to use the atom bomb against JapanwU.S. interaction with the allies regarding the postwar worldwThe emergence of the Cold War and the evolution of a new U.S. national strategy |
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Overview of Allied Strategy, Continued

Soviet Strategy Soviet strategy in World War II revolved around the following themes:

- wSoviet prewar military and ideological problems
 - wStalin's strategy toward Germany and Japan
 - wThe Soviet-German Pact
 - wThe impact of military surprise
 - wNational mobilization and resistance
 - wSoviet perceptions of and interaction with the other allies
 - wThe significance of the European and Pacific Theaters
 - wThe Soviet vision of the political end-state and the postwar world
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Required Reading

Strategic Level of War Readings Weinberg, Gerhard L. *The World at Arms: A Global History of World War II*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994, pp. 138 to 166, 278 to 289, 417 to 420, 431 to 441, 609 to 616, 619 to 631, 635 to 637, 656 to 666, 842 to 847. This reading is located immediately following this lesson, pp. K-3 to K-100. This selection is a historical summary of World War II from the strategic standpoint. It covers all fronts to include diplomatic.

Issues For Consideration

Allied War Aims What were the allied war aims? How did the allies attempt to achieve those ends?

Postwar Visions How did the visions of Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union for the postwar world coincide or clash? Could the collapse of the Grand Alliance and the emergence of the Cold War have been avoided?

Perceptions What impact did the varying perceptions and interests have on the course of allied strategy and conflict termination?

Roosevelt and Churchill Evaluate the contributions President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill made to American and British strategy in World War II. How might things have been different without these two leaders?

Allied Strategy What was the basis for Allied military and political strategy during World War II. What key ideological and economic issues motivated Great Britain, the U.S., and the Soviet Union to join forces against the Axis powers? Did any of the Allies have a particular strategy for winning the war?
